

eSecurity News — Break the Chain!**WHAT IS CHAIN MAIL?**

No, it's not the metal mesh armor worn by knights riding in to save the day. **It's the email, text message, or post that you receive that asks you to pass it on...or else!** They try to make you feel guilty or threaten that if you do not share, post, retweet or forward to everyone you know something bad could happen. Where do these chains start? Hmm... that's a great question!

**WHAT ARE "THEY" AFTER?**

The originators of these messages intend to overload servers, spread viruses, seek listings of email addresses, ask readers to delete files or take some other action. Their primary objective is to spread hype, unnecessary fear and paranoia. Even messages that seem harmless may have negative results when you forward them.

BREAK THE CHAIN!

What can you do? Don't believe everything you see online or receive from others. Don't assume others are well educated on the risks presented by the digital world. **You can stop chain mail in its tracks by not forwarding it.** Help to educate others. Share security tips with friends and family.



For more information check out the following resources:

[Identifying Hoaxes and Urban Legends](#)
[National Cyber Security Alliance](#)

USER TIPS**Don't use network resources to forward spam!**

It's probably a hoax. An e-mail message from a friend or family member claiming to be urgent news that you should distribute around the world is a hoax. Do not use work resources to forward spam messages to your friends, family or co-workers.

**Check the validity of a message!**

Use the websites below to see if the post, e-mail, or text that you received is true. These sites provide information about hoaxes and urban legends.

- ◆ [Urban Legends and Folklore](#)
- ◆ [Symantec Security Response Hoaxes](#)
- ◆ [McAfee Security Virus Hoaxes](#)
- ◆ [How to Spot Fake News and How to Stop it From Spreading](#)

Questions, comments or topic suggestions?
Email us at eSecurity@state.de.us

Visit the DTI [eSecurity website](#) for previous issues of
eSecurity Newsletters

